

1020 Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 NOV 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Int. Application No. : PCT/EP2004/005125 Confirmation No. :
First Named Inventor : Stephen MAHER
Int. Appl. Filing Date : May 12, 2004
TC/A.U. : Unassigned
Examiner : Unassigned

Docket No. : 102187.57082US
Customer No. : 23911

Title : A Retractable Straw Device

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 AND 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attached Form PTO-1449 lists documents which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

I. Time Period of Submission

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

☒ 1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or 2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later) or 3) before a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination, and therefore no statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

☐ 2) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action closing prosecution (*Ex parte Quayle*), (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith:

☐ a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); or

☐ a fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

☐ 3) after either a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith:

a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); and

a fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

II. Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

☐ I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or

☐ I hereby state that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

III. Submission of Non-English Language Documents

☐ The following is a concise explanation of relevance of the non-English language documents listed in the attached Form PTO-1449:

☐ The relevance of document(s) _____ to the subject matter of the present invention is/are provided in the specification of the above-identified application.

☐ Corresponding foreign or international report(s) citing document(s) _____, together with an English-language version(s) (if not already in English) of that portion of the report(s) indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office(s) is/are submitted.

☐ English language family member publication(s) of document(s) _____ is/are noted on Form PTO-1449.

☐ English language abstract(s) is/are submitted for document(s) _____.

☐ English translation(s) of the foreign language document(s) _____ is/are submitted herewith.

☐ Applicant submits the following explanations:
_____.

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IV. Continuations/Divisionals/PCT National Stage Applications

☐ Documents _____ were previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement filed on == in parent application Serial No. _____, from which this application claims a benefit.

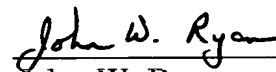
☒ Copies of document(s) listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08 have already been provided by the International Searching Authority, therefore, duplicate copies are not attached hereto. A copy of the International Search Report stating the relevance of each document is attached hereto.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

If necessary, this paper should be considered as an authorization to charge Deposit Account 05-1323, Attorney Docket No.: 102187.57082US, for the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

Respectfully submitted,

November 14, 2005



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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: November 14, 2005 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Int. Application Number	PCT/EP2004/005125
				Int. Application Filing Date	May 12, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Stephen MAHER
				Group Art Unit	Unassigned
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
				Attorney Docket Number	102187.57082US
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	5,513,762	A	Saeid JANANI	05-07-1996	
	A2	6,375,032	B1	Hee Il KIM	04-23-2002	
	A3	5,339,982	A	Pierre TARDIF	08-23-1994	
	A4	2,805,809	A	William A. PUGH	09-10-1957	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A5	WO	01/60217	A	POPSTRAW COMPANY LLC	08-23-2001		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.